

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8-20 and 22-23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A signaling medium, comprising:
 - a first plurality of optical signal conductors;
 - a first plurality of electrical signal conductors;
 - a first electrically conductive shield surrounding the first plurality of optical signal conductors and the first plurality of electrical signal conductors;
 - a second plurality of optical signal conductors;
 - a second plurality of electrical signal conductors; and
 - a second electrically conductive shield surrounding the second plurality of optical signal conductors and the second plurality of electrical signal conductors.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The signaling medium of claim 1, wherein the first electrically conductive shield surrounding the first plurality of optical signal conductors and the first plurality of electrical signal conductors is spaced apart from the first plurality of electrical signal conductors,
 - and wherein the second electrically conductive shield surrounding the second plurality of optical signal conductors and the second plurality of electrical signal conductors is spaced apart from the second plurality of electrical signal conductors.

4. (Original) The signaling medium of claim 1, wherein each one of the plurality of optical signal conductors has a longitudinal axis and a cross-sectional area, wherein the longitudinal axis of each one of the plurality of optical signal conductors lies substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of every other one of the plurality of optical signal conductors, and wherein the cross-sectional area of each one of the plurality of optical signal conductors lies within a first substantially circular area.

5. (Original) The signaling medium of claim 4, wherein each one of the plurality of electrical signal conductors has a longitudinal axis and a cross-sectional area, wherein the longitudinal axis of each one of the plurality of electrical signal conductors lies substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of every other one of the plurality of electrical signal conductors, and wherein the cross-sectional area of each one of the plurality of electrical signal conductors lies within a second substantially circular area.

6. (Original) The signaling medium of claim 5, wherein a diameter of the second substantially circular area is less than a diameter of the first substantially circular area.

7. (Original) The signaling medium of claim 1, wherein each one of the first plurality of electrical signal conductors is disposed between a selected first one and a selected second one of the first plurality of spaced apart optical signal conductors.

Claims 8 - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A signal communication system, comprising:
a first circuit board including a first plurality of spaced apart optical signal
terminations and a first plurality of electrical signal terminations, wherein at least one of the
first plurality of electrical signal terminations is disposed between a selected first one and a
selected second one of the first plurality of spaced apart optical signal terminations;

a second circuit board including a second plurality of spaced apart optical signal terminations and a second plurality of electrical signal terminations, wherein at least one of the second plurality of electrical signal terminations is disposed between a selected first one and a selected second one of the second plurality of spaced apart optical signal terminations;

a signaling medium including a first plurality of spaced apart optical signal conductors capable of being in optical communication with the first and second plurality of optical signal terminations and a second plurality of electrical signal conductors capable of being in electrical communication with the first and second pluralities of electrical signal terminations, wherein at least one of the first plurality of electrical signal conductors is disposed between a selected first one and a selected second one of the first plurality of spaced apart optical signal conductors; ~~The signal communication system of claim 19, further comprising:~~

a first electrically conductive shield surrounding the first plurality of spaced apart optical signal conductors and the first plurality of electrical signal conductors, and spaced apart from the first plurality of electrical signal conductors;

a second plurality of spaced apart optical signal conductors;

a second plurality of electrical signal conductors, wherein at least one of the second plurality of electrical signal conductors is disposed between a selected first one and a selected second one of the second plurality of spaced apart optical signal conductors; and

a second electrically conductive shield surrounding the second plurality of spaced apart optical signal conductors and the second plurality of electrical signal conductors, the second electrically conductive shield being spaced apart from the second plurality of electrical signal conductors and electrically coupled to the first electrically conductive shield.

Claims 22 – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The signaling medium of claim 1, wherein the second electrically conductive shield is electrically coupled to the first electrically conductive shield.